

THE COMPOSITION OF THE MILK OF THE AFRICAN DWARF GOAT, SPRINGBOK AND BLUE DUIKER

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The rearing of animals in captivity involves many factors of which one of the most important is to ensure that conditions are suitable for the development of young. Ideally, the young animal should be reared by its mother but in practice it is sometimes necessary to hand-rear a young animal and in this case information on its diet is important, particularly the composition of the mother's milk. Ben-Shaul (1963) has given the composition of the milk of a large number of wild animals but those of the blue duiker (*Cephalophus monticola*), springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*) and the African dwarf goat (*Caprine* spp.) were not included. These three animals are kept at Queen's Park Zoo, East London, and the author took the opportunity of having milk samples from lactating ewes analysed. The results of these analyses are shown in Table 1.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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REFERENCE

BEN-SHAUL, D. M. 1963. The composition of the milk of wild animals. In *The international zoo yearbook*, 4, ed. C. Jarvis & D. Morris. London: Hutchinson.

TABLE 1

The composition of the milk of the blue duiker, springbok and African dwarf goat (in % m/m).

	<i>Blue Duiker</i>	<i>Dwarf Goat</i>	<i>Springbok*</i>
Total milk solids	29,25	13,68	
Fat	16,00	5,55	12,00
Lactose	3,22	1,39	1,78
Protein	8,47	5,36	3,35
Ash (residue after ignition)	1,04	1,15	1,50
<i>Analysis of ash</i>			
Calcium as Ca	17,44	13,37	
Magnesium as Mg	3,76	2,06	
Sodium as Na	3,91	22,30	
Potassium as K	13,24	3,17	
Chlorides as Cl	3,97	25,82	
Phosphates as PO ₄	50,09	33,20	

*Taken from a dying ewe five days after the onset of lactation.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LAMBING INTERVAL OF THE GREY DUIKER, SYLVICAPRA GRIMMIA GRIMMIA

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INTRODUCTION

Little information is available on the reproduction of the grey duiker, *Sylvicapra grimmia grimmia* (Linnaeus) in South Africa. Stevenson-Hamilton (1912) considered the gestation period to be about four months, Jennison (1927 in Kenneth & Ritchie 1953) 123 days and Wilhelm (1933 in Kenneth & Ritchie 1953) a maximum of 210